

Tennessee Narrative Statement for 2018 Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program

The Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP) manages a systematic, year-round cycle for tracking problems surfacing in the criminal justice system, monitoring trends in Tennessee's communities, assessing the condition of the state's resources, setting program priorities, making grant allocation decisions, managing those funded projects, measuring the performance of, and evaluating the results of those decisions. Our strategic program management process looks several years ahead of daily grants management activities at the changing needs of Tennessee's justice system. The process helps OCJP focus its future program descriptions, set its funding priorities, prepare its budget requests, and direct its limited resources into areas that promise the best return for the public's investment.

As in most states, the majority of Tennessee's criminal justice dollars continue to be raised from local taxes and spent on local and state criminal justice priorities and problems. Crimes are committed locally, and that is where offenders are apprehended, defendants tried, sentences determined and carried out, and where services are provided for both the victims of the crime and offenders. Because the Statewide Multi-year Strategy serves as the blueprint for all coordinated drug and violent crime control efforts in the State and the rehabilitative services for those that commit those crimes and the reparative services for those victimized, it is imperative that the State utilize a strategic planning process that reflects the perspectives of these practitioners. It must be as inclusive as possible. To that end, the Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP) takes a data-driven approach and proactively seeks input from practitioners on the local, state and federal levels to assist in influencing the strategy. OCJP gathers practitioner information through a variety of planned information gatherings, training conferences and seminars, as well as through informal meetings and surveys. This strategy document is a reflection of this information gathered from across the State as well as data from across the Nation.

OCJP's JAG application takes the overall strategic plan and attempts to address some of the systemic as well as local issues and addresses statewide and community needs identified through current relevant data around crime and victimization. OCJP attempts to leverage all State and Federal fund sources to maximize the individual strategies in addressing the issues.

The data contained in the statewide strategic plan demonstrates the following nine areas of need:

- System weaknesses tied to domestic violence and sexual assault
- Gang intelligence and a coordinated approach to apprehension and prosecution of drug offenses (to include the opioid epidemic) and violent crimes
- Data-driven, location-based strategies to crime reduction
- Meeting basic infrastructure issues such as law enforcement equipment, domestic violence shelter enhancements and criminal justice and victim service practitioners' training
- Community-based crime prevention & education activities
- Case backlog and programs designed to minimize time and maximize effectiveness of court
- Improve criminal justice information sharing and integrated systems
- Evidence-based programs and personnel found to reduce recidivism of inmates housed locally
- Expansion of victim services through Criminal Justice systemic collaborations such as Family Justice Centers

While the Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs is not implementing significant changes to the 2017 Tennessee Statewide Five Year Strategy and the two subsequent annual addendums, OCJP is excited about the opportunity this grant provides to impact crime in Tennessee over the next several years. OCJP will continue to seek information and input from our local and state level peers to enhance our understanding of the current needs and issues Tennessee faces over the course of this multi-year plan. Each year this office will use these grant funds as well as other fund sources to implement specific strategies to address the most pressing issues. Intended use of these JAG grant funds include the following (changes may take place based on current needs which are fluid):

Program Responses	# of Grants	JAG Priority Area
Community Crime Prevention	5	Prevention and Education
Targeted Community Crime Reduction	1	Prevention and Education
Multi-Jurisdictional Drug & Violent Crime Task Forces	18	Law Enforcement Programs
Innovations in Investigative Techniques	2	Law Enforcement Programs
Criminal Justice Professional Enhancement Training	3	Law Enforcement Programs
Criminal Justice Professional Enhancement Training	3	Prosecution & Court
Law Enforcement Equipment	8	Law Enforcement Programs
Law Enforcement Equipment	1	Drug Treatment and Enforcement Programs
Pretrial Service Delivery	2	Prosecution & Court
Pretrial Service Delivery	1	Planning Evaluation and Technological Improvement Programs
Criminal Justice Tech Improvement	1	Planning Evaluation and Technological Improvement Programs
Correctional Programming	9	Corrections & Community Corrections
Victim Services	2	Crime Victim and Witness Initiatives